

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A modified Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) having a reduced reactivity with a neutralizing antibody to SEB (anti-SEB antibody).

2. (Original) The modified SEB of claim 1 wherein the reactivity with the anti-SEB antibody was reduced by introducing arbitrary amino acid substitution in the amino acid sequence of SEB.

3. (Original) The modified SEB of claim 2 wherein the amino acid substitution was introduced at an epitope recognition site of the anti-SEB antibody in the amino acid sequence of SEB.

4. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 2 wherein the amino acid substitution was introduced within a region from Lys at 226-position to Lys at 229-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB.

5. (Original) The modified SEB of claim 4 wherein the amino acid sequence of from 226-position to 229-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is Leu Phe Ala Ala.

6. (Original) The modified SEB of claim 4 wherein the amino acid sequence of from 226-position to 229-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is Ala Thr Thr Gln.

7. (Original) The modified SEB of claim 4 wherein the amino acid sequence of from 226-position to 229-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is Lys Arg Ile Ile.

8. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 1 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

9. (Currently Amended) A prophylactic/remedy ~~adapted for immunopathy~~ comprising
as an active ingredient the modified SEB as set forth
in claim 1,

wherein said prophylactic/remedy ~~has~~ provides a
reduced immunological response to SEB and an inhibitory activity
to T cell activation,

said prophylactic/remedy being in a form adapted for immunopathy.

10. (Original) The prophylactic/remedy for immunopathy of claim 9 wherein said immunopathy is rheumatoid arthritis.

11. (Currently Amended) The prophylactic/remedy for immunopathy of claim 9 ~~which is in a~~ wherein said form is a form for oral administration.

12. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 2 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

13. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 3 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

14. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 4 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

15. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 5 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

16. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 6 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

17. (Previously presented) The modified SEB of claim 7 wherein Asn at 23-position in the amino acid sequence of SEB is substituted with Tyr.

18. (Currently amended) A prophylactic/remedy having a form adapted for immunopathy comprising as an active ingredient the modified SEB as set forth in claim 8, wherein said prophylactic/remedy ~~has~~ provides a reduced immunological response to SEB and an inhibitory activity to T cell activation.

19. (Currently amended) The prophylactic/remedy for immunopathy of claim 18 ~~which~~ wherein said form is ~~[[in]]~~ a form for oral administration.

20. (Previously presented) The prophylactic/remedy for immunopathy of claim 18 wherein said immunopathy is rheumatoid arthritis.

21. (New) A modified Staphylococcal enterotoxin B (SEB) having a reduced reactivity with a neutralizing antibody to SEB (anti-SEB antibody),

capable of being expressed in a soluble form in *E. coli* to be maintained stably in an aqueous solution and that retains a therapeutic effect to immunopathy equivalent to that of naturally occurring SEB,

wherein the reactivity with anti-SEB antibody is reduced by introducing in the amino acid sequence of SEB an amino acid substitution from Lys at the 226-position to Lys at the 229-position of Leu Phe Ala Ala, Ala Thr Thr Gln or Lys Arg Ile Ile.